(d) what arrangements have been made for the safety of common citizens as even ministers are not safe due to naxalite activities in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects. In the circumstances the concerned State Governments have to devise various measures and take concrete steps to curb left wing extremist activities in States. However, keeping in view the overall dimensions, which left wing extremism has assumed, it has become a matter of concern for the Central Government as well. It has, therefore, set up a high level Coordination Centre, headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the seriously affected States, as its members, to review and coordinate steps taken by these States to check the left extremist activities, monitor the plan of action in respect of each State and to make recommendations both on development and security aspects of the problem.

The Coordination Centre has been meeting periodically. Several important decisions such as providing financial support from the Centre for combating left wing extremists activities, construction/improvement of identified critical roads preparation of plans for development of affected areas to tackle the problem in a holistic manner, sharing of intelligence inputs on constant basis, providing assistance of para-military forces on need basis etc. have also been taken and effectively followed-up.

ISI Activities in North-Eastern Region

2821. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the Newspaper Report in the Hindustan Times of 11th March, 2000 that ISI is fomenting extremist violence in the N.E. Region possibly working through dissident groups with bases in Bangladesh;

(b) whether ISI is helping militants in Assam to attack unarmed civilians for political purposes;

(c) whether it is a fact that ISI agents were imparting training and arming some of the militants of ULFA and other Groups; and

(d) what steps in details Government propose to curb such nefarious activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Government have taken several steps which include sensitizing and gearing up of the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated actions by concerned Central and State agencies including Army, Para-military Forces, Intelligence agencies and State Police.

Restoration of Land to its Occupants

2822. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Andhra Pradesh Government to give a piece of defence land acquired by the State to its occupants belonging to the weaker section; and

(b) if so, the action taken to ensure that 20,000 people who were living for fifty years on the land get back the land paying the modest price as directed by NHRC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Union Government decided to transfer the piece of land, known as Tadepalligudem Air Field, belonging to the Ministry of Defence to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. However, as some writ petitions are pending in the High Courts, in this regard, the State Government has been taking steps to get the same decided expeditiously.

Conducting Hearing of Rape Cases in Camera

†2823. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.